(xvi) Water conservation campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

Narmada Rehabilitation Cost

*97. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has raised its claim for project rehabilitation cost in respect of Narmada Dam oustees against the Government of Gujarat or the Central Government at a review panel;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of the claim; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) According to the Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) Award stipulates that the entire cost of Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) of Sardar Sarovar Dam is to be borne by the Government of Gujarat. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has, therefore, put up its claim accordingly for R&R cost of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in respect of Sardar Sarovar Dam to the Government of Gujarat as well as to the Review Committee for Narmada Control Authority (RCNCA).

(b) and (c) As per the information made available by the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, an expenditure of Rs. 1269.54 crore has been incurred upto September, 2004 on R&R of the PAPs of Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP). The expenditure incurred on R&R of the PAPs by the Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat are Rs. 734.07 crore, Rs. 159.40 crore and Rs. 376.07 crore respectively.

Since the Government of Gujarat has shown reservation in sharing all the cost of R&R concerning SSP, the issue of sharing the cost of R&R was referred to the Attorney General of India by the Ministry of Water Resources in January, 2000 for his opinion as per the decision taken in the 6th meeting of the RCNCA.

The Attorney General of India in his opinion dated March 5, 2003 mentioned that the cost of R&R of the oustees has to be borne entirely by the State of Gujarat. While the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra agreed with the opinion of Attorney General, the Government of Gujarat did not agree with it. Government of Gujarat desired to represent its case with the legal expert to Attorney General in this regard.

The Narmada Control Authority (NCA) while agreeing with the views of the Attorney General, also put on record the dissent note of Government of Gujarat and decided that Attorney General's opinion with the decision of NCA would be taken to the next RCNCA meeting for their consideration and decision.

The matter was discussed in the 12th meeting of RCNCA held on 9th September 2004 and it was decided that the Ministry of Law will be requested to allow a hearing to Government of Gujarat by the Attorney General for presenting their view point on the issue of sharing cost of R&R of SSP. If Attorney General desires, similar opportunity can also be provided to other party States. The reply of Attorney General along with the earlier opinion of the Attorney General will be considered in the future meeting of the RCNCA for a decision.

NABARD Loan to Farmers in M.P. and Chhattisgarh

†98. *SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE* be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is providing loan to the farmers in Madhya Pradesh and Chattishgarh through State Governments; and

(b) if so, the percentage of interest being charged by NABARD from the State Governments on the said loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance to District Central Coop. Banks (DCCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) located in various States including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh against crop loans disbursed by them to farmers. NABARD also provides refinance to commercial Banks, Coop. Banks and RRBs against their term loans provided under investment credit for agriculture and allied purposes, rural non-farm sector and rural housing.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.